Center for Social Development (CSD)

ORGANIZATIONAL PROFILE

CENTER FOR
SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

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1. Who We Are

The Center for Social Development (CSD) is an independent, non-profit, and non-partisan civil society organization founded by Rohingya youths and community members in Bangladesh. Established in 2026 from within the Rohingya refugee community, CSD is committed to strengthening community resilience, and advancing sustainable development through research, education, leadership development, capacity building, and community engagement.

As a refugee-led initiative, CSD operates as a community-based organization within the Rohingya refugee response in Bangladesh. The organization is currently exploring appropriate legal and institutional pathways to formalize its status in a manner consistent with national laws and its founding mission.

The Rohingya community is at the heart of CSD's work and remains the organization's first priority. CSD believes that lasting change is achieved when communities have the knowledge, skills, and opportunities to participate in decisions that affect their lives and to lead their own development. By strengthening local leadership and promoting community-driven solutions, the organization seeks to create meaningful and sustainable impact.

CSD follows a development-focused approach that combines research, evidence, and practical action to address community needs. The organization works constructively with communities, humanitarian agencies, civil society organizations, and development partners to encourage collaboration, strengthen local capacity, and promote inclusive development while respecting national laws and internationally recognized human rights principles.

While CSD begins its work by serving the Rohingya community in Bangladesh, it is guided by a long-term vision of becoming a trusted regional civil society organization. As the organization grows, CSD aims to expand its knowledge, partnerships, and programs to support other vulnerable and marginalized communities across the Asia-Pacific region, while remaining committed to its founding mission and community roots.

2. Why We Exist

The Rohingya community has endured decades of persecution, forced displacement, statelessness, and limited access to education, livelihoods, and opportunities for leadership. While humanitarian assistance continues to address urgent needs, long-term progress also depends on empowering communities to participate in shaping their own future. Strengthening knowledge, leadership, and local capacity is essential to building resilient and self-reliant communities.

The Center for Social Development (CSD) was established in response to these challenges. As a Rohingya-founded organization, CSD believes that communities should not only receive support but also have the opportunity to contribute to decisions, lead initiatives, and create solutions that reflect their own experiences and priorities. The organization promotes a balanced approach that combines human rights, research, education, leadership development, and community participation to support sustainable development.

Although CSD begins its journey by serving the Rohingya community in Bangladesh, its vision extends beyond one community. By building strong local experience, trusted partnerships, and evidence-based practices, CSD aims to contribute to the advancement of human rights and sustainable development for other vulnerable and marginalized communities across the Asia-Pacific region. Throughout this growth, the organization remains committed to its founding purpose of serving the Rohingya community with integrity, professionalism, and accountability.

3. Vision

A just, inclusive, and resilient society where the Rohingya community and other vulnerable and marginalized communities enjoy dignity, equal rights, opportunities, and the ability to lead safe, empowered, and sustainable lives.

4. Mission

The Center for Social Development (CSD) is committed to empowering the Rohingya community by promoting human rights, strengthening research and knowledge, expanding education and leadership opportunities, and supporting community-led development. Through evidence-informed action, capacity building, and meaningful partnerships, CSD works to strengthen resilience, promote inclusion, and create practical and sustainable solutions that improve the lives of the communities it serves.

As the organization grows, CSD seeks to share its knowledge, experience, and partnerships to support other vulnerable and marginalized communities across the Asia-Pacific region while remaining committed to its founding purpose and values.

5. Core Values

The Center for Social Development (CSD) is guided by the following core values, which shape the organization's culture, decisions, and relationships with the communities it serves and its partners.

- **Human Dignity:**

We believe that every person has inherent dignity and deserves to be treated with respect, fairness, and compassion. We are committed to promoting and protecting the rights and well-being of all people without discrimination.

- **Integrity:**

We conduct our work with honesty, professionalism, transparency, and ethical responsibility. We strive to build trust by acting consistently with our values and commitments.

- **Inclusion and Equality:**

We believe that everyone should have equal opportunities to participate, contribute, and benefit from development. We value diversity and encourage the meaningful participation of women, youth, persons with disabilities, and other marginalized groups.

- **Accountability:**

We are accountable to the communities we serve, our partners, supporters, and stakeholders. We promote responsible decision-making, transparency, effective use of resources, and continuous learning.

- **Collaboration:**

We believe that sustainable change is achieved through partnership, dialogue, and shared responsibility. We work constructively with communities, government institutions, humanitarian agencies, civil society organizations, academic institutions, and development partners to maximize collective impact.

- **Learning and Innovation:**

We value research, evidence, local knowledge, and continuous improvement. We encourage learning, innovation, and the development of practical solutions that respond to changing community needs.

6. Our Approach

The Center for Social Development (CSD) follows a rights-based, community-centered, and evidence-informed approach to promote sustainable and inclusive development. The organization believes that lasting change is achieved when communities are empowered to identify their priorities, participate in decision-making, and lead solutions that address their own needs and aspirations.

CSD combines community knowledge with research, education, and practical experience to design programs that are relevant, responsive, and sustainable. The organization values learning, innovation, and collaboration to ensure that its work is informed by reliable evidence and reflects the realities of the communities it serves.

Partnership is a key part of CSD's approach. The organization works constructively with communities, humanitarian agencies, civil society organizations, research institutions, and development partners to strengthen local capacity, promote shared learning, and increase collective impact. Through these partnerships, CSD seeks to contribute to practical solutions that improve community well-being while respecting national laws and internationally recognized human rights principles.

CSD is also committed to inclusion, accountability, transparency, and safeguarding in all aspects of its work. The organization strives to create a safe and respectful environment where every individual is treated with dignity and has the opportunity to participate meaningfully in development processes.

7. Strategic Priorities

The Center for Social Development (CSD) focuses on the following strategic priorities to guide its programs, partnerships, and organizational growth. These priorities reflect the organization's long-term commitment to strengthening communities, promoting human rights, and advancing sustainable development.

- **Promote Human Rights and Community Protection:**

Promote respect for human rights, dignity, protection, inclusion, and equal opportunities through community awareness, research, advocacy, and initiatives that strengthen the safety and well-being of vulnerable communities.

- **Strengthen Research, Documentation, and Knowledge:**

Generate reliable evidence through research, documentation, assessments, and knowledge-sharing to better understand community needs, support informed decision-making, and contribute to effective policies and programs.

- **Expand Education, Leadership, and Capacity Development:**

Improve access to education, leadership development, vocational learning, digital literacy, and other capacity-building opportunities that empower individuals and strengthen community institutions.

- **Advance Gender Equality and Youth Leadership:**

Promote the meaningful participation of women and young people by strengthening leadership, encouraging civic engagement, and supporting equal opportunities in community development and decision-making.

- **Build Community Resilience and Sustainable Development:**

Strengthen community resilience by supporting disaster preparedness, climate adaptation, humanitarian response, safe migration awareness, sustainable livelihoods, and other initiatives that help communities prepare for and recover from challenges.

- **Strengthen Partnerships and Institutional Growth:**

Build effective partnerships with communities, humanitarian agencies, civil society organizations, development partners, and other stakeholders while continuously strengthening CSD's institutional capacity, governance, and sustainability.

8. Program Areas of Work

The Center for Social Development (CSD) implements its mission through the following program areas. These programs are designed to respond to community needs, strengthen local capacity, and promote sustainable and inclusive development.

➢ Human Rights and Community Protection:

CSD promotes awareness of human rights, dignity, protection, and equal opportunities through community education, research, documentation, dialogue, and initiatives that strengthen inclusion, accountability, and community participation.

➢ Research and Documentation:

Research is a core part of CSD's work. The organization conducts studies, assessments, surveys, documentation, and policy research to better understand community needs, generate reliable evidence, and support informed decision-making by communities, partners, and other stakeholders.

➢ Education and Capacity Development:

CSD strengthens knowledge and skills by supporting education, leadership development, digital literacy, vocational learning, and other capacity-building opportunities that empower individuals and strengthen community institutions.

➢ Women's Empowerment and Gender Equality:

CSD promotes the meaningful participation, leadership, and empowerment of women and girls while encouraging equal opportunities, inclusion, and a safe environment where they can actively contribute to community development.

➢ Youth Leadership and Civic Engagement:

CSD supports young people to become responsible, informed, and active leaders by strengthening leadership skills, volunteerism, civic participation, innovation, and opportunities for community engagement.

➢ Safe Migration and Anti-Trafficking:

CSD works to reduce the risks of irregular migration, trafficking in persons, and exploitation through research, awareness, community engagement, and collaboration with relevant stakeholders to promote safe and informed decision-making.

➢ Humanitarian Action and Community Resilience:

CSD contributes to community resilience by supporting disaster preparedness, humanitarian response, climate adaptation, public health awareness, and initiatives that help communities prepare for, respond to, and recover from crises.

➢ Partnerships and Policy Engagement:

CSD encourages collaboration, dialogue, and knowledge sharing with communities, humanitarian agencies, civil society organizations, and development partners. The organization also contributes evidence and community perspectives to discussions that support inclusive and sustainable development.

9. Who We Serve

The Center for Social Development (CSD) was founded to serve the Rohingya community, which remains the organization's first priority. CSD is committed to supporting the rights, dignity, resilience, and sustainable development of Rohingya communities through inclusive, community-led, and evidence-informed initiatives that respond to their evolving needs and aspirations.

Within the Rohingya community, CSD gives particular attention to women, girls, youth, children, older persons, persons with disabilities, and other individuals and groups who face greater vulnerability or barriers to participation. The organization believes that inclusive development requires ensuring that all members of the community have equal opportunities to participate, contribute, and benefit.

As the organization grows, CSD aims to share its experience, knowledge, and partnerships to support other vulnerable and marginalized communities across the Asia-Pacific region. This future expansion will be guided by community needs, organizational capacity, and strategic partnerships, while remaining firmly committed to CRD's founding purpose of serving the Rohingya community.

10. Geographic Focus

The Center for Social Development (CSD) begins its work in Bangladesh, with a primary focus on the Rohingya refugee community. The organization is committed to responding to the needs and priorities of the communities it serves through research, education, capacity development, humanitarian action, and community-led initiatives that promote human rights and sustainable development.

While Bangladesh remains CSD's initial area of operation, the organization is guided by a long-term vision of expanding its work across the Asia-Pacific region. As CSD grows, it aims to strengthen regional partnerships, share knowledge and experience, and implement programs that support other vulnerable and marginalized communities facing similar challenges.

The expansion of CSD's geographic presence will be guided by community needs, organizational capacity, strategic partnerships, and available resources. Throughout this growth, the organization will remain committed to its founding purpose and continue to place the Rohingya community at the center of its work.

11. Partnerships and Collaboration

The Center for Social Development (CSD) believes that meaningful and sustainable change is achieved through strong partnerships. While communities remain at the center of its work, CSD recognizes that lasting impact requires collaboration among different stakeholders who share a commitment to human rights, community resilience, and sustainable development.

CSD values constructive partnerships with communities, humanitarian agencies, civil society organizations, research institutions, development partners, and responsible private-sector organizations where appropriate. Through these partnerships, the organization seeks to strengthen local capacity, promote

knowledge sharing, encourage innovation, and develop practical solutions that respond to community needs.

The organization is committed to building partnerships based on mutual respect, transparency, accountability, trust, and shared responsibility. CSD values open dialogue, cooperation, and learning, and believes that every partnership should contribute to strengthening communities and creating positive, lasting impact.

As CSD expands its work, it will continue to develop national, regional, and international partnerships that support its mission and long-term vision. Regardless of where it works, CSD will remain guided by its founding values and committed to ensuring that the voices, priorities, and experiences of the communities it serves remain at the center of every partnership.

12. Founder and Team

- **Founder:**

The founder brings 8 years of experience working with NGOs, INGOs, and civil society organizations, both on-site and remotely. His work spans community health, research, genocide documentation, advocacy, and youth empowerment. He has worked with IOM, contributing to research from planning to data analysis, and with British Red Cross and Swedish Red Cross, where he managed teams and shared hygiene messages with the Rohingya community. At Asian Dignity Initiative (ADI), he collected testimonies from genocide victims and survivors and worked on research on trafficking, gender-based violence, Rohingya views on the ICJ hearing, and a comprehensive report on the past, present, and future of the Rohingya community. He also monitored human rights in Rakhine State and refugee camps in Bangladesh, and contributed to research projects with Legal Action Worldwide (LAW) and the National University of Singapore (NUS). In addition, he served as Director of Media and Communication at Rohingya Youths for Society Change (RYSC) and Deputy Executive Director at Rohingya Human Rights Center (RHRC). He advocated for Rohingya rights and has trained and empowered women and youth to take part in community service.

- **Team:**

The team is a group of 10 dedicated directors, coordinators and officers as well as a group of 10 general contributors from the Rohingya community, each bringing 5 to 8 years of hands-on experience across a wide range of fields. Their expertise includes teaching, research, documentation, community engagement, health, activism, civil society work, photography, and storytelling.

United by a shared commitment to their community, the team combines professional skills with deep local knowledge. This strong blend of experience and passion allows them to serve the community with care, creativity, and purpose.

13. Governance

The Center for Social Development (CSD) is led by the Founder & Executive Director, who provides overall leadership and is responsible for the organization's strategic direction, program implementation, partnerships, resource management, and day-to-day operations.

The Founder & Executive Director is supported by directors, coordinators and officers who oversee their respective departments and work closely with staff, volunteers, and community representatives to implement CSD's programs and activities.

CSD is also supported by a 5-membered representative committee from the Rohingya community and an International Advisory Board, comprising volunteer experts from different countries who provide strategic and technical advice. The Advisory Board serves in a non-governing capacity and does not participate in the organization's day-to-day management or operational decision-making.

As CSD grows and strengthens its institutional capacity, the organization may establish a formal Board of Directors to provide governance and strategic oversight.